**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

Claims 1 to 10. (Canceled).

11. (New) A rack-and-pinion steering system for motor vehicles, comprising:

a pinion;

a rack longitudinally displaceably arranged in a steering mechanism housing, the rack including two ends, each end articulatedly connected to a respective steering tie rod;

a pressure piece configured to maintain the pinion and the rack in constant engagement;

a sealing bellows fastened on one side to the housing and on another side to the steering tie rods; and

at least one pressure compensation element integrated in the steering mechanism housing, the pressure compensation element integrated in the pressure piece.

12. (New) The rack-and-pinion steering system according to claim 11, wherein an adjusting screw of the pressure piece includes the pressure compensation element.

13. (New) The rack-and-pinion steering system according to claim 11, wherein the pressure compensation element is formed of a porous sintered material.

14. (New) The rack-and-pinion steering system according to claim 13, wherein an adjusting screw of the pressure piece is formed of a porous sintered material.

15. (New) The rack-and-pinion steering system according to claim 1, wherein the pressure compensation element is configured as a porous sintered plastic insert.

16. (New) The rack-and-pinion steering system according to claim 15, wherein one of (a) the housing and (b) the adjusting screw of the pressure piece includes a cutout adapted to dimensions of the sintered plastic insert and arranged to accommodate the sintered plastic insert.

17. (New) The rack-and-pinion steering system according to claim 15, wherein the sintered plastic insert is arranged as a pressed pellet is pressable into the cutout.

18. (New) The rack-and-pinion steering system according to claim 17, wherein the pressed pellet is formed from ground granules joined to one another by sintering.

19. (New) The rack-and-pinion steering system according to claim 18, wherein at least one of (a) air permeability values and (b) liquid retention capacity is influenceable by at least one of (a) a size and (b) a shape of the granules.

20. (New) The rack-and-pinion steering system according to claim 11, wherein the pressure compensation element is arranged as one of (a) a disk and (b) a diaphragm.

21. (New) A rack-and-pinion steering system for motor vehicles, comprising:

a pinion;

a rack longitudinally displaceably arranged in a steering mechanism housing, the rack including two ends, each end articulatedly connectable to a respective steering tie rod;

a pressure piece configured to maintain the pinion and the rack in constant engagement;

a sealing bellows fastened on one side to the housing and fastenable on another side to the steering tie rods; and

at least one pressure compensation element integrated in the steering mechanism housing, the pressure compensation element integrated in the pressure piece.

22. (New) A rack-and-pinion steering system for motor vehicles, comprising:

pinion means;

rack means longitudinally displaceably arranged in a steering mechanism housing means, the rack means including two ends, each end articulatedly connected to a respective steering tie rod means;

means for maintaining the pinion means and the rack means in constant engagement;

sealing bellows means arranged on one side to the housing means and on another side to the steering rod means; and

at least one pressure compensating means integrated in the steering mechanism housing means, the pressure compensating means integrated in the maintaining means.



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